

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /041 W

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R 130901Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 180

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJ: GOP DENIES ENTRY TO BELGIAN PRIEST

REF: MANILA 13335

1. LOCAL NEWSMAN TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 13 THAT REVEREND FRANCOIS HOUTART, PROFESSOR AT LOUVAIN AND VICE PRESIDENT OF FERIS (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INSTITUTES OF SOCIO-POLITICAL RESEARHC) WAS DENIED ENTRY TO PHILIPPINES LAST WEEK. HOUTART, WHOSESPECIALTY IS "STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS", WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GIVEN SEMINAR IN BAGUIO FOR 40 OR 50 HEADS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES. WHEN NEWSMAN ASKED IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER REYES WHY HOUTART (WHO GAVE SIMILAR SEMINAR LAST YEAR WITHOUT PROBLEM) WAS DENIED ENTRY, REYES SAID BECAUSE OF HIS "MARXIST VIEWS." NEWSMAN ASKED WHETHER HOUTART HAD ESPOUSED SUCH VIEWS DURING HIS LAST VISIT. REYES SAID NO BUT THAT GOP HAD REPORTS OF "MARXIST STATEMENTS" DURING SEMINARS HOUTART RECENTLY CONDUCTED.

2. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF HOUTART INCIDENT IN CONTROLLED PRESS, BUT IT MAY BE REPORTED IN "SIGNS OF THE TIMES." REFUSING ENTRY TO WELL-KNOWN RELIGIOUS SCHOLAR SOMETHING OF A FIRST FOR THE GOP. IT MAY BE REFLECTIVE OF HARDER LINE SOME IN GOP FEEL SHOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST CLERICAL ACTIVIST (REFTEL).
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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